

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ANKARA 01685 072024Z  
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-03 SS-14 PM-03 INR-05 EB-03  
SP-02 NEAE-00 /045 W  
-----072028Z 061051 /41  
P 071512Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6670

S E C R E T ANKARA 1685

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LIMDIS

NOFORN

FOR NEA/RA DIRECTOR PALMER

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CENTO, US  
SUBJECT: CENTO OPTIONS STUDY

REF: STATE 38929

1. WE THINK YOUR DRAFT OPTIONS PAPER SETS FORTH ALL OF THE MAJOR ISSUES WITH REGARD TO OUR PARTICIPATION IN CENTO AND MAKES THE COMPELLING ARGUMENTS. HOWEVER, YOUR LIST OF ADVANTAGES FOR OPTION 2 (CONTINUING EXISTING POLICY AT CURRENT REAL LEVELS) MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED BY THE ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT THAT THIS COURSE OF ACTION IS THE MINIMUM REPEAT MINIMUM NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE VIABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE. ALSO, REGARDING OPTION 3, SUBOPTIONS OF MODEST AND MAJOR INCREASES MIGHT BE ADDED; FOR EXAMPLE, A MODEST REAL INCREASE (SUCH AS DOUBLING THE SIZE OF THE ANNUAL BLOCK GRANT OR SPECIFIC PROJECT SUPPORT UNDER \$1 MILLION PER YEAR) WOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL DIVIDENDS IN STRENGTHENING THE ALLIANCE AND YET BE AN UNDRAMATIC MOVE AS FAR AS USG CIVILIAN ECONOMIC AID OUTLAYS

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ARE CONCERNED.

2. FOLLOWING ARE SPECIFIC COMMENTS KEYED TO THE PAGES OF YOUR DRAFT:

A. PAGES 8-9: IN THIS DISCUSSION, YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE THE POINT THAT WE HAVE HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE PROBLEM IN FENDING OFF

SPECIAL POLITICAL INTERESTS OF REGIONAL COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF CENTO'S DECISION-MAKING BY CONSENSUS. THUS, THE U.S. AND UK HAVE BEEN IN A POSITION TO CURB REGIONAL ABERRATIONS AND ESSENTIALLY MAINTAIN OUR SECURITY COMMITMENT TO THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES AT MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.

B. PAGE 13: YOU MAY WISH TO ADD THAT A SPECIFIC ADVANTAGE FOR THE U.S. HAS BEEN EXERCISE MIDLINK, CONDUCTED ANNUALLY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WITH ACTIVE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF PAKISTAN AND IRAN, WHICH HAS ENABLED US TO MAINTAIN OUR SECURITY INTERESTS THERE IN THE FACE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY REGARDING INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE.

C. PAGE 16: WE ARE UNAWARE OF "INCREASING PRESSURE" TO FIND ACQUISITION OF COUNTER-SUBVERSION EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY AS THESE MINIMUM (APPROXIMATELY \$15,000 PER YEAR) COSTS ARE BORN ENTIRELY BY ANOTHER USG AGENCY, SUGGEST DELETION OF THIS POINT.

D. PAGE 19: WE WOULD RESIST SWITCH OF PAKISTANI CIVILIAN MICROWAVE PROJECT TO BILATERAL US-GOP PROGRAM BECAUSE SECRETARY OF STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE UP TO \$500,000 FOR THIS PURPOSE WAS ORIGINALLY MADE IN THE CENTO CONTEXT. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CENTO PROJECT MIGHT, HOWEVER, BE ASSIGNED TO USAID ISLAMABAD BECAUSE CENTO SECRETARIAT IS TOO FAR REMOVED FROM PROJECT SITE.

E. PAGES 21-22: UNDER ADVANTAGES FOR OPTIONS 2 AND 3, WE MIGHT INDICATE THAT INCREASED U.S. FINANCIAL INPUTS COULD BE TAILORED TO SPECIFIC AND WORTHWHILE PROJECTS DEVELOPED UNDER CENTO'S ECONOMIC  
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PLANNING/PROGRAMMING CYCLE. THIS WOULD AVOID U.S. BECOMING IDENTIFIED ONLY WITH PROMOTING PROJECTS NOT HAVING BROAD INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF REGIONAL COUNTRIES.

F. PAGE 25: CENTO MILITARY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PRIMARILY BENEFIT PAKISTAN, BUT WOULD BENEFIT ALL REGIONAL COUNTRIES AND WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES OF (A) LINKING MAIN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS OF ALL REGIONAL COUNTRIES, AND (B) LINKING UNIFIED CENTO SYSTEM WITH COMPATIBLE NATO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. ALSO WE WOULD OPPOSE SUPPORTING PAKISTANI CIVILIAN MICROWAVE PROJECT AS CONSOLATION PRIZE FOR ELIMINATING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

G. PAGE 24: UNDER DISADVANTAGES OF WITHDRAWING SUPPORT FROM CENTO, YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO ADD THAT THE CENTO ORGANIZATION, PARTICULARLY ITS MILITARY STRUCTURE AND LINKS WITH THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES, WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR OUR USE IN A FUTURE CRISIS SITUATION.  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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